

April 1991

## If Rumors Were Horses

Katina Strauch  
*Against the Grain*

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# Against the Grain

*"Linking Publishers, Vendors, and Librarians"*

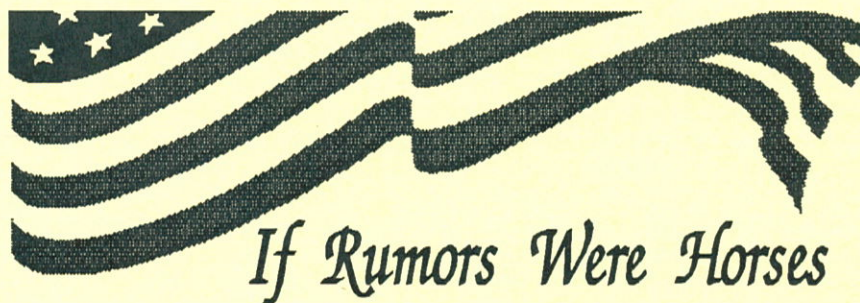
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## If Rumors Were Horses

The biggest rumor there is as we go to press is the buyout of Pergamon by Elsevier. See this issue for several related articles.

Livres Etrangères, the old, prestigious firm which was begun by a Russian who emigrated to France, has gone out of business because of the chaos in Russian publishing. Georges deLorme, a truly delightful man who is the president of the company, states that Livres Etrangères had to go through channels in France in order to be able to go out of business. Libraries are currently dealing with Kamkin or Collets in order to try to obtain materials from Russia. Apparently, Livres Etrangères customers have been turned over to Kamkin. (see related stories in this issue, pages 20 and 36)

She moved to Charleston about two years ago and took Josie Williamson's place at the Daniel Library at the Citadel. Now Zelma Palestrant is the new Director of Libraries at the Citadel. Congratulations, Zelma.

The other day, we heard from Edwin Shelock, once of the Royal Society of Chemistry and a keynote speaker at the Charleston Conference a few years ago. Edwin has retired and has gotten married to a woman he has known for 40 years. Now he is off to his chateau in Brittany. Except that he is still in and out of Russia, working on publishing projects.

And Virginia Rodes has been appointed the Northeast Sales Representative for The Book House, Inc. Ginny has both library automation and bookselling experience and, most recently, was the Science/Reference Librarian at Penn State University-Erie. She received her MA from the University of Chicago and her MLS from SUNY-Buffalo. Welcome, Ginny!

It's official. Mike Markwith is really back at the Faxon Company as reported in our last issue. His title is Eastern Sales Manager.

And we understand that Jim Smith is staying on with Faxon but is stepping down as Director, Academic Information Services.

Dimi Berkner has been named Director of Sales & Marketing at Columbia University Press. Congratulations, Dimi!

We understand that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has received a Shakespeare First Folio valued at \$300,000 from a private donor. There are only 150-200 copies which exist apparently. And we think that's pretty exciting!

Edna Laughrey, Saline Michigan-based internal consultant for Faxon's Academic Services Division and former head of acquisitions at the University of Michigan Library, is recuperating

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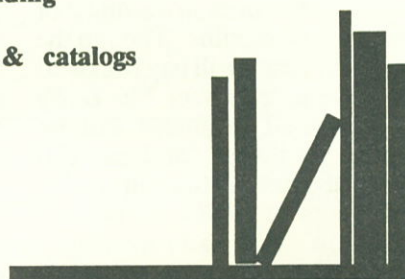
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## Rumors *continued from page 1*

comfortably from a broken ankle suffered on a recent visit with Claude Noyes and company at the University of Rochester. A grease spill on the floor of a Rochester eating establishment was the culprit. Edna reports Rochester is a great place to break an ankle, if one has to, owing to excellent, friendly doctors and good friends like Claude and his wife, who kept her well-supplied with reading materials during her short stay in a Rochester hospital. Edna has been back home in Saline for a couple of weeks now and has gone through, right on schedule, a number of different ankle casts. We said shake a leg, Edna!

**All Things Considered** — (reported by Richard Jasper — Emory University) — Librarians and the problems they are facing have achieved some national notoriety, owing in part to the general difficulties confronting public higher education. In a segment aired on Monday, March 11, a reporter for "All Things Considered," National Public Radio's evening news program, talked to a number of higher education officials, including Joe Hewitt, AUL for Technical Services at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, regarding their plight. The problem facing the UNC Library, including curtailed operating hours and the can-

cellation of 1500 journal subscriptions, was featured prominently in the segment. Although it's heartening to see SOME attention paid to the problems of academic libraries, it is somewhat dismaying to think that Chapel Hill's problems are being faced by hundreds of other college and university libraries as well. Moreover, the report made it clear that in general state legislators and other state government officials are less than sympathetic, and sometimes downright hostile, to the need for additional spending in higher education. And with President Bush declaring that he's tired of hearing (what do you want to bet that this phrase will be the campaign slogan of '92?) about the problems facing education (after all we're doing a really splendid job), the prospects of increased federal spending look grim.

**Charleston Conference Alumni Update** — Some of us have lost touch with some attendees of old Charleston Conferences that we'd like to know more about.

Lackadaisical Alabamian that he is, John Ryland (formerly Director of Libraries at Hampden Sydney College) and regular attendee of the Charleston Conference from 1981-85 is Director of Libraries, Oglethorpe University Libraries

in Atlanta, GA. John tells us it's only twelve years until retirement, but meanwhile he's tripling the physical size of his library. It's going to be old-fashioned, collegiate Gothic, small rooms, lots of study space, an atrium with a big chandelier, an after hours room. Though the groundbreaking ceremony has taken place, building will start this spring and the building should be completed in 18 months to two years. Oglethorpe is expanding its existing library facility but it will be totally renovated. The next logical question is about books — will they be getting more books? John says he hopes so, but he isn't holding his breath. The library currently has 84,000 volumes, but John has discarded 30,000 volumes (mainly old and duplicate textbooks). The library added 7200 volumes last year and used Bibliophile for its online catalog and circulation. Acquisitions will hopefully go up this summer.

**We heard from Suzana Scherzer** (Institute for Research & Development) in Haifa, Israel the other day who attended Charleston 1990. She is doing fine. "...we lived; everything that could be postponed was postponed. Thank God, it is over, and things are starting to fall in place." ☘